



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of January 11, 2010

An unfortunately small turn out to an important meeting, with only eight of our somewhat depleted ranks being able to attend. Actually, only seven were on hand to bravely sing the National Anthem, with Secretary George not arriving until much later. He also had the mixed fortune of missing the hearty rendition of Happy Birthday in honour of our former Sergeant-at-Arms, Rotarian Brian.

President Mike then reported that John Litva has chosen to resign from the club. John's resignation leaves the post of program chair temporarily vacant. We will all have to pitch in to suggest potential programs over the next while. Secretary George is willing to make contact with such prospects until we fill the position. So let him (me) know what ideas you have along these lines.

Rotarian David B. has confirmed to President Mike that he wants to remain a Club member, and he expects to be able to attend meetings again.

There has been no reply so far from Mike's attempts to contact Rotarian Susan to confirm her future intentions vis-à-vis the Club.

Mike then chaired a round-table discussion on the membership issue. After a discussion of the merits of contacting past members to follow up on why they had left, it was decided that the reasons, varied as they may

be, are already pretty well known, and spending time on further follow-up would not be worthwhile.

The opinions that came up ranged all the way from relaxing and being happy with the way we are rather than worrying about the total number of members, to putting on an advertising campaign and following it up with an "open house" wine and cheese recruitment event. We agreed that each member would try to bring along one guest and potential member by the end of March. If possible, it would also be useful to take a potential member to a meeting of a larger club in the area, to give him/her a more general idea of how Rotary works. We need a better community focus, so that we can explain the objectives of the club, and how we can benefit the community. It was suggested we might invite Russ Hicks to talk to us about objectives and membership.

Mike asked for written answers to the two questions on the agenda. They were:

1. What do you think the club should do to attract new members?
2. What can you do personally to help?

Several members provided replies during the meeting, and any others are requested by email.

